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Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2005 4:10 PM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: MLPAComments: BLTF comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public participation -

The fisherman should have input into the maps of habitat, human activity, and current no fishing zones that are being developed for evaluation.

Master plan Framework

1. Clear measurable and definable necessary goals need to be established first.
2. Clear evaluation of the current MPA's and defacto no fishing zones need to be done and discussion of how they meet the necessary objectives and goals established in #1
3. Current fishery regulations need to be understood by all levels of participation including the Science Team, BRTF, and the public and truly evaluated for their effectiveness. This needs CPUE studies regionally to calculate the abundance of fish under current management. Since many of the strictest regulations have only been in effect the last 2 seasons on the nearshore fishery, it is necessary to get current stock abundance studies on a region first.
4. Historical fishing zones must be considered.
5. Those fisheries that will not be benefited by a MPA should be exempt from restrictions (I.e. spot prawns, dungenous crab, salmon, wet fish, pelagic species).
6. The MPA's should not crowd nearshore fisherman into small unproductive regions.
7. The MPA's will need regular monitoring with collaborative research using various methods including trapping, hook and line, and diving. The data needs to be collated by a central advisory group and yearly evaluated as to whether it is achieving it's goals. The data should be incorporated into local stock assessments. This should be done by a group of local community dfg, fisherman, and other local vested interest.
8. The ultimate goals should include regional management of local fisheries. We were promised regional management by the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan but that ball got dropped secondary to lack of dfg funds. How long is this ball going to stay in the air? How long is the state going to spend all their resources on installing MPA's and ignore necessary fishery management of the nearshore (i.e. Tier systems, regional quotas, etc. You have destroyed the socioeconomics of the nearshore fishery with your statewide stock assessments and allocations)
9. Sewage leaks, impingement by power plants, oil tankers dumping their bilge, and seal lions have killed more marine life than any group of fisherman. Are you just looking to deal with the fisherman since they are the easiest target, or do you truly care about the marine ecosystem's health? Pollution and over population of mammals is California's coastlines biggest problems that need addressing, overfishing has already been addressed. (After this last heavy rain, the Los

Osos septic tanks leaked into the Morro Bay estuary killing all the fish in the aquarium that uses bay water.)

10. The budget for the MPA spends \$200,000 on local research collection. This is the cost of 1 tagging project maybe. Do you believe that you will have enough CPUE data, water quality data, socioeconomic data, and other species data such as larvae dispersement in less than 1 year on those kind of funds? The current available information is very limited, the regulations have been change drastically in the last 2 years. Fishery dependant data is unavailable thanks to new quotas and closures. If you could show the fishing community concrete measurable data of local fishery abundance, perhaps we would believe you have a case, until then it is all speculation that the ocean is in "crisis". Show me the weapons of mass destruction.

Criteria for Central Coast Study

1. Biographical and spacial boundaries that are clear and logical define the "central coast"
2. Changes in temperature, currents, habitat and species on either sides of its borders.
3. Nearshore fishery management zones. Improving regional stock assessments with the boundaries for study.
4. Scientific information available on existing MPA's
5. Pigeon Point to Pt Arguello (Conception includes Santa Barbara fisheries and we don't need to get those guys into this)

Tom Hafer,
Commercial Fisherman, Morro Bay